



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Tenth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament

INNOVATING FOR GENDER EQUALITY:

Making development, peace and democracy a reality for women and men

United Nations Headquarters, New York, 29-30 August 2015
Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union

DRAFT AGENDA

Saturday, 29 August

10 – 10.15 am	Celebrating ten years of Meetings of Women Speakers - Welcome remarks by IPU President
10.15 – 10.45 am	Keynote address – Ms. Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and Chair of Nobel Women’s Initiative The keynote address will be followed by a short question and answer session
10.45 am – 1 pm	Theme 1: Democracy: Innovating for more gender inclusive decision making processes and bodies In every country sustained progress in women’s access to leadership and decision-making positions, be it in public or private arenas, remains a challenge. In the political arena, only 16% of Parliaments are headed by a woman, globally only 22% of parliamentarians are women and only 17% of ministerial portfolios are held by women. Barriers remain despite growing acknowledgement that democracy and development can only benefit from gender balance in decision-making processes and bodies. Research has found parliaments and local councils to better deliver on gender equality when women are represented in higher numbers and hold higher decision-making positions. Further research has shown that companies with more women on their boards outperform their rivals. For the glass ceiling to be broken, an enabling environment and legal framework are necessary, and so is a shift in standards and mindsets within institutions and in the household. Multi-sector innovative approaches shall be explored and thoroughly discussed around the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Women leaders in parliament. How best can one tap on women MPs’ potential to act as role models? What other innovative means can contribute to enhancing women’s participation in parliament?- Women leaders in the private sector: What new incitement measures are there to be tested? Are quotas the answer?- Gender-sensitive institutions. How can gender-sensitive policies, procedures and practices in parliament or in the private sector offer avenues to promote women’s leadership?- Redefining roles: How to engage men in sharing household responsibilities. Innovating to promote a shift in mentalities. <i>Presentations by:</i> Rt. Hon the Baroness F. D’Souza, Lord Speaker of the House of Lords (United Kingdom) Ms. I. Murniece, Speaker of the Saeima (Latvia) Ms. V. Macamo Dhlovo, Speaker of Parliament (Mozambique) Ms. L. Milebou Aubusson, President of the Senate (Gabon) Ms. L. Boldrini, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (Italy) Ms. E. Radiszewska, Deputy Marshal of the Sejm (Poland)

Ms. J. Luveni, Speaker of Parliament (Fiji)
Ms. T. Modise, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (South Africa)
Ms. Z. Konstantopoulou, President of the Hellenic Parliament (Greece)
Ms. S. B. Hanoomanjee, Speaker of the National Assembly (Mauritius)
Ms. N. Motsamai, Speaker of the National Assembly (Lesotho)
Ms. T. Tsacheva-Dangovska, Speaker of the National Assembly (Bulgaria)

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

1 – 2.30 pm Hosted buffet lunch at the Vienna Café, UN Headquarters

2.30 – 3 pm Group photo. Meeting point at the Vienna Café

3 – 5.30 pm **Theme 2: Peace: Innovating to end violence against women and harmful practices, in particular in conflict situations**

Violence against women (VAW), as well as harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilations, find their root in patriarchal settings that legitimize discriminatory attitudes and unequal gender social norms. Such violence and practices are exacerbated during conflict; therefore women's contribution to peace processes is of paramount importance and so is an effective response to VAW that occurs during conflict. Security Council resolution 1325 provides an essential benchmark in this respect. Beyond conflict, in order to shift patterns that are conducive to VAW, a transformative approach is needed. Innovation is key including through approaches focusing on prevention, engaging men and youth as well as using ICTs and the media.

Areas for discussion will include:

- Innovative approaches to implement UNSCR 1325 and to prevent and respond to violence against women and harmful practices in conflict and post-conflict settings
- Innovative ways to engage men and youth.
- Innovative ways to engage women in peace-building and reconciliation.
- Innovative use of ICTs and the media – including the social media – in view of changing attitudes and stereotypes that are conducive to or condone gender-based violence.

Presentations by:

Ms. L. Grauziniene, Speaker of the Parliament (Lithuania)
Ms. R. Kadaga, Speaker of Parliament (Uganda)
Ms. D. Bures, President of the National Council (Austria)
Ms. G. Kokorwe, Speaker of the National Assembly (Botswana)
Ms. T. Efua Asangono, President of the Senate (Equatorial Guinea)

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

7 to 9 pm Cocktail reception for women Speakers hosted by the IPU President, the IPU Secretary General and the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, held at the residence of the Ambassador of Italy to the United Nations.

Sunday, 30 August

10 – 11.45 am **Theme 3: Development: Innovating for financing for gender equality**

Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is at the heart of development and achieving sustainable development goals. National budgets, as much as financial and development policies are essential to the implementation of gender-equality laws and policies. Particular attention is to be paid to these measures' potential to promote women's economic empowerment. Gender-responsiveness and transparency of budgetary and financial policies are key aspects in ensuring any gender-related goals are achieved.

Areas for discussion will include:

- Accountability of national bodies. Innovating to ensure gender-responsive national budgets and adequate resource allocation to implement gender equality laws and policies.

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- Accountability of international finance and development bodies. Innovative ways to ensure parliamentary oversight of how policies are shaped and implemented.
 - Monitoring the impact of national budgets, development aid and financial policies from a gender perspective. What innovative strategies can be experimented?
 - How to mitigate the impact of economic and budgetary policies on gender equality?
 - How to avoid setbacks on financing for gender equality due to economic crises?

Specific attention will be placed, as a case study, on financing and accountability for maternal, newborn and child health, an issue discussed at the Sixth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament. The World Health Organization's Director of Reproductive Health and Research, Dr. M. Temmerman, will give some introductory remarks on progress achieved in that regard and objectives for the coming years.

Presentations by:

- Ms. B. Mbete, Speaker of the National Assembly (South Africa)
- Ms. K. Ifill, President of the Senate (Barbados)
- Ms. A. Makinda, President of the National Assembly, United Republic of Tanzania)
- Ms. M. Lohela, Speaker of Parliament (Finland)
- Ms. S. Mahajan, Speaker of the Lok Sabha (India)
- Ms. E. Madzongwe, President of the Senate (Zimbabwe)
- Ms. D. Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (Rwanda)

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

11.45 a.m. – 12:15 pm Coffee break

12:15 – 1 pm

Input to the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

A report on the meeting will be presented, followed by a discussion among participants on their specific contribution to the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.
